

HERZING UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT



Thursday, October 2nd, 2025, 7:30 PM CT

Minneapolis Convention Center

Minneapolis, MN

Commencement Ceremony

~ Processional ~

**Welcome &
Introduction**

Dr. Jeff Hill
Regional Vice President,
Midwest

**Student of the Year
Award**

Dr. Daniel Marcelle
Director, Minneapolis Campus

**Commencement
Speaker**

The Honorable Larry Kraft
Minnesota House of
Representatives

**Conferring of
Diplomas**

Dr. Diana Kostrzewski
Program Chair, Nursing

**Hooding of Master
& Doctoral Candidates**

Dr. Kelly May
Academic Dean, Online Learning

Dr. Elisabeth Murfield
Associate Vice President,
Curriculum and Assessment

**Hooding of Doctoral
Candidates**

Dr. Daniel Marcelle
Director, Minneapolis Campus

**Distinguished Alumni
Award Introduction**

Stephanie Hoppe
Sr. Alumni Relations
Ambassador, MBA '23

**Alumni
Pledge**

Elizabeth Ruiz
Master of Science, Healthcare
Administration, '25

**Charge to Graduates
& Closing Remarks**

Renee Herzing
President, Herzing University

~ Recessional ~

Celebrating 60 Years of Herzing

A Legacy of Learning: Herzing University Turns 60

For six decades, Herzing University has been at the forefront of career-focused education. Founded in 1965 by Henry and Suzanne Herzing, and now led by their daughter, President Renée Herzing, we've grown from a single computer training institute to a respected, multi-campus institution with 12 campuses across eight states offering a wide range of academic programs, as well as our online campus and programming.

As we commemorate our 60th anniversary with over 50,000 graduates, Herzing University remains dedicated to fostering long-term career success in a caring learning environment. We continue to adapt and innovate, ensuring our students are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow's workforce. Join us in celebrating 60 years of transforming lives through education, and discover why students choose to be part of the Herzing University family.



Commencement Speaker



The Honorable Larry Kraft
Minnesota State Representative
House District 46A - St. Louis Park

Larry Kraft was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2022 and represents the city of St. Louis Park. He currently serves as vice-chair of the Energy Finance and Policy committee and is also on the Transportation and State Government committees. He is the co-chair of the House Climate Action Caucus and an Assistant Leader for the House DFL Caucus.

Prior to serving in the State Legislature, Kraft was a St. Louis Park City Council Member from 2020 - 2022. Kraft has 25 years of high-tech business experience, having held leadership positions in a variety of organizations, from startups to large public companies. From 2003-2013 he was SVP Sales & Marketing for Digi International, here in Minnesota. In 2013, he made a career shift to focus his time on addressing climate change. Before getting into politics, from 2014-19, Kraft was Executive Director at iMatter, a national nonprofit, focused on helping young people advocate for climate policy in their communities.

Rep. Kraft is married with two kids and is an ice cream fanatic.

Commencement Speaker



Renée Herzing
University President
Herzing University

Renée succeeded her father, Henry Herzing, as president of the Herzing University System on March 1st, 2009. After attaining a bachelor's degree from Brown University, she taught abroad in Scotland and Germany for nine years before completing her Masters in Business Administration.

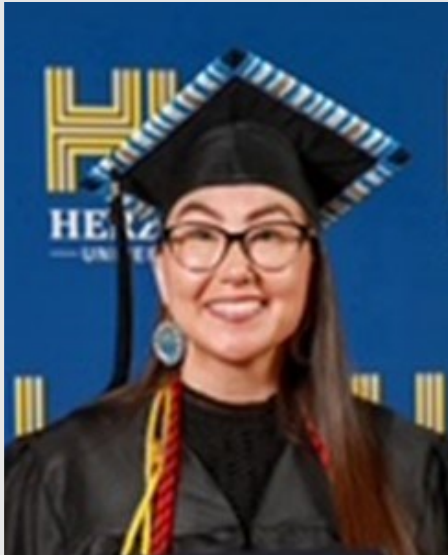
She has worked in various positions at Herzing University at the campus level, including registrar, director of admissions, and president of Herzing University online. In addition, Ms. Herzing has overseen the System's online, strategic planning, and information technology initiatives. She launched the System's Online division in 2003, which has grown from 100 students to over 2500 students.

In education, she is on the Steering Committee of the Higher Education Regional Alliance (HERA), the Board of WAICU (Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities), and a Trustee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee. Renée served on the Board of Directors for the Career Education Colleges and Universities (CECU) and was the Chair of its Grassroots Committee. Additionally, she is active in national educational idea-sharing groups.

In the business community, she is a member of YPO (Young Presidents' Organization), an international organization of over 20,000 CEOs, where she has held a variety of leadership roles since 2011. She is also a member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC), on the Steering Committee of Milwaukee Women, Inc. and a member of TEMPO Milwaukee.

Outside of work, Renée enjoys playing rock music in a band with her family, traveling, entertaining, learning languages, and spending as much time as possible with her two children, including horseback riding with her daughter.

Distinguished Alumna



Elizabeth Ruiz

Master of Science, Healthcare Administration,
'25

Pursuing my degree at Herzing University wasn't just about advancing my career—it was about following my dreams and fulfilling a personal purpose. With a passion for healthcare and a deep desire to make a difference, my journey was shaped by resilience, hard work, and the unwavering support of my family.

My return to school began with a realization sparked by something I once told my daughter: there is no timeline to success or finding your purpose. After years in direct patient care, I was passed over for a promotion—not for lack of knowledge, but because I didn't have a degree. I decided I wouldn't let that setback define my future. The pandemic gave me the push to step out of my comfort zone, and I re-enrolled at Herzing, where I had earned my associate's degree 20 years earlier.

For a time, my daughter and I were in college together. I leaned on her for support, and to my surprise, I excelled academically—so much so that I continued straight into my master's program. At Herzing, I found a program built for working professionals and instructors who truly cared about my success. Balancing work, family, and school wasn't easy, but the flexibility and support made it possible.

Today, I'm a proud 2025 graduate of Herzing University—Minneapolis with a master's degree in healthcare administration. I serve as a healthcare administrator at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, managing orthopedic and podiatry departments and leading efforts to deliver high-quality care for our nation's veterans. Looking ahead, I'm passionate about advancing in leadership, supporting healthcare teams, and advocating for those who have served our country.

As the daughter of a Native boarding school survivor, I dedicate my higher learning journey to my strong and resilient mother, who will be 84 this year. With her strength behind me, and Herzing's support, I proved that with perseverance and belief in yourself, you can overcome obstacles and achieve your goals.

It's an honor to return as a Distinguished Alumnus during Herzing's 60th Anniversary celebration. I'm possible with Herzing.

Student of the Semester

The *Student of the Semester* award will be given to a student who has accomplished the following:

- Is an Undergraduate Honors Graduate
- Has maintained a high attendance average
- Has demonstrated leadership and inspiring attributes throughout the program
- Has made outstanding contributions to the University and to fellow students

Congratulations to our award winners for 2025:

Diamond Davies
Diploma in Dental Assisting

Brenda Gekonge
Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

Cindy Ravn
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Roster of Candidates

This Commencement Program is a roster of candidates, not an official list of graduates. Appropriate degrees and honors are only awarded to candidates who successfully complete all requirements for program completion by established deadlines.

Herzing University's official designator for degree conferral is the student's permanent academic record and is displayed on the official transcript.

Diplomas

Diploma in Bookkeeping and Payroll Accounting

Brooklyn Riley

Cyndee Riley

Diploma in Dental Assisting

Lizbet Alatraste *h*

Madison McIntosh

Kayleigh Ballesteros Valadez *h*

Chyna Michealson *h*

Giselle Beker

Chloe Miller

Nicole Cecere *h*

Timothy Moore *h*

Ana Chang *h*

Melody Moua

McKenzie Cook *h*

Andrea Nelson *h*

Diamond Davies *h*

Holly Odland

Yana Demars

Ilyas Osman *h*

Ava Forbrook

Nhi Pham *h*

Alexis Gardner *h*

Kaitlyn Rapacz *h*

Aisha Hajio

Cleopatra Ricks

Brianna Hughes *h*

Sergio Rivera-Martinez

Taylor Kortus

Carina Santana Arreola *h*

Brenna Kylo *h*

Hanna Shelton *h*

Adeifemi Ladega

Skyler Sherrett *h*

Mariah LeMire

Daijah Smith *h*

Pajtaglag Lor

Skylar Stayler

Elexis Luebke

Kirstyn Tafoya *h*

Jannel Luna-Sanchez

Aylishia Tang *h*

Aylin Macias Flores *h*

Stella Taylor *h*

Casadee May

Tegan Tschida

Diploma in Dental Assisting (Cont.)

Justice-Lee Vannatta-Kapoi
Socorro Vital Ortiz

Kelly Vue *h*
Kaozer Yang

Diploma in Health and Human Services

Monique Robinson

Diploma in Insurance Billing and Coding Specialist

Cassandra Lardie
Jessica Meyers *h*
Ayna Moon *h*
Brianna Skiba

Cassandra Stang
Ashley Wilcox
Erica Yang
Zoua Yang

Diploma in Medical Assisting

Mawata Bility
Najae Clark *h*
Natasha Cockfield
Angel Enfield
Antonya Gomiller

Breon James *h*
Elisa Lopez
Leah Medved
Chloe Romanchuk-Bentley
Sheng Thao

Diploma in Medical Coding

Jehiel Kiatamba

Diploma in Medical Office Administration

Khadijah Brown-Parker
Brianna Carey

Elaine Velasquez

Diplomas

Diploma in Sterile Processing

Tenzin Bhakdo
Manigbeh Bility
Analysia Davis

Caylea Wade *h*
Timothy Wallace

Associate Degrees

Associate of Applied Science in Dental Assisting

Abdirashid Abdullahi
Faiza Abdullahi *h*
Grace Alexander
Jariatu Barrie
Diego Becerril *h*
Leah Bezrukavaya *h*
Lauren Bushway *h*
Madison Deggendorf
Grace Gustafson *h*
Lily Hofner *h*
Haja Kaba
Emily Knapp *h*
Madison Koster
Ella Mackin *h*
Iveth Martinez *h*
Bailey Morehouse *h*
Sunnette Nyemah

Anh Phan *h*
Tiffani Rhodes
Danielle Robertson *h*
Dimitra Rothweiler *h*
Karli Schroeder *h*
Matineh Shamlou *h*
Annisy Thor
Myroslava Tkachenko *h*
Emily Vue *h*
Makaila Waddell
Erin Waldorf *h*
Sahra Warsame
Hanna Wedeking
Amaya Weeber *h*
Jessie Weng *h*
Kaylee Williford *h*
Maslibdas Xiong

Associate Degrees

Associate of Applied Science in General Studies Pre-Nursing

Habon Abdi	Shalanda Mathis
Sharina Alovera <i>h</i>	Abang Mbong
Marie Araloyin <i>h</i>	Dakota Meacham
Tiffany Bennewitz	Bahja Mohamed
Ayisha Buari <i>h</i>	Delvin Mongare
Yvonne Castro <i>h</i>	Carrie Mulkern
Sophia Clemens	Mariam Omar
Naima Dahir	Fatuma Sayed
Kurt Fitschen <i>h</i>	Sarah Sende
Simon Hidig	Sandy Thao
Kayla Hinze <i>h</i>	Tenzin Tsega
Alison Huberty	Oumalkaire Youssuf
Selena Landeros	Ava Zwack-Lafaurie <i>h</i>
Kalissa Lorensen <i>h</i>	

Associate of Applied Science in Information Technology

Antione Rucker	Sambat Thoeut
----------------	---------------

Associate of Applied Science in Legal Studies

Martha Pinos	Kimberly Wilson
--------------	-----------------

Associate of Applied Science in Medical Coding

Madeleine Brainard <i>h</i>

Associate of Applied Science in Medical Office Administration

Airyana Golden	Angel Pruitt
----------------	--------------

Associate Degrees

Associate of Science in Health and Human Services

Chakiira Poole

Kayla Reynolds

Associate of Science in Medical Assisting Services

Ayr'Reyannia Morgan

Bachelor's Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Computer Networking

Joe Thao

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Jessica Ebbe Daniel

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

Maymun Abdi

Shayla Allee *m*

Kaouther Arfaoui *s*

Shanna Black

Jessica Bollig

Ya Ling Bonesteel *s*

Erin Carlston *c*

Madison Castoreno

Ladaria Claybrone

Abigail Culhane *m*

Isabel Frye

Francesca Gedatus

Brenda Gekonge *s*

Carolina Gumenyuk *c*

McKenzie Kelly

Hannah Krafty *c*

Seth Lee

Gwyneth Lien *c*

Johanna Loots

Kathy Lu *m*

Gabrielle Meyer

Autumn Miller

Bachelor's Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (Cont.)

Andrea Moldan <i>m</i>	Anna Seidel
Trinh Nguyen <i>s</i>	Brynna Seidl
Mandy Nguyen <i>m</i>	Zoe Snyder
Molly OConnell <i>c</i>	Hailey Thielbar
Mila Phethdara	Matilda Turnquist
Allyssa Prunty	Morgan Verke <i>s</i>
Nour Refaya <i>c</i>	Amanda Vu <i>s</i>
Abigail Renz <i>c</i>	Alexia Willis <i>c</i>
Alexandra Saenger	Doua Yang <i>m</i>
Mercedes Sauerwein	Tiffany Yang-Herr <i>m</i>
Carlee Savoie	Reini Cathleen Zeller <i>c</i>
Tad Schultz <i>c</i>	

Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management

Luckey Abshir	Cathryn Saterdalen <i>m</i>
Maryann Beaulieu	

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Felycia Marcial

Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration

Michelle Anderson <i>s</i>	Hane Mohamed
Amal Hussein <i>m</i>	Dejane-CKAI Tate

Bachelor of Science in Marketing

Jack Moore *c*

Bachelor's Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Abdirezak Abdi <i>m</i>	Amanda Driskill
Iman Abdukadir	Semira Ebiso
Jamila Abdulle	Cynthia Ellingson <i>c</i>
Mumena Adem	Emma Elo <i>c</i>
Patricia Aigand	Emely Enciso <i>c</i>
Ruweyda Ali	Bartholomew Engvall
Melissa Alrasheid <i>c</i>	Fadumo Farah <i>c</i>
Cathelyn Anderson <i>m</i>	Korpo Flomo
Vinnie Babu	Maria Flores Chalin <i>s</i>
Bilise Bariso	Denny Galdamez
Kelsey Barrett <i>c</i>	Sara Garland <i>c</i>
Abbie Becker <i>c</i>	Mackenzie Graen <i>c</i>
Keja Berry	Graciela Guantello
Jacquelin Bobb	Madeleine Hauer
Brielle Campbell	Maria Odessa Hernando
Riley Campion	Sarah Hilker <i>c</i>
Emma Cappuccitti <i>m</i>	Isabelle Honigschmidt
Rebecca Cardinal <i>c</i>	Abulu Hundesa
Georgia Cardinal	Fathi Hussein <i>m</i>
Sarah Cardona <i>c</i>	Samantha Huston <i>m</i>
Emily Carlson <i>m</i>	Ibrahim Ibrahim <i>c</i>
Kamisha Collier	Badriya Issa Qassin
Rebecca Couillard	Peggy Jackson <i>c</i>
Nyaluak Dakdouth <i>c</i>	Rihana Jafer <i>c</i>
Netsanet Darihun	Memunatu Kamara
Lea Deminsky <i>c</i>	Lindsey Kampmeier <i>m</i>
Jennifer Dimitroff <i>m</i>	Sumeya Kasim
Djete Djobo <i>c</i>	Marta Kelemu
Marzetu Dolleh	Olivia Kirby <i>c</i>
Tiffany Dolomengi	Abigail Kriese <i>c</i>
Arianna Drinkwine	Livingstone Karana Kudi

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Cont.)

Lucy Lee	Cindy Ravn c
Amanda Lee	Jacklyn Roldan Peña
Susan Maki	Stephen Ruhr
Jada Mays	Abigail Russell c
Hope McCormick m	Alison Schildhauer s
Serena McDaniels c	Sara Schueller
Christine McIntyre m	Prabita Sharma m
Elizabeth McKee c	Jonathan Sheehan
Natey Mekonnen	Isha Sheriff m
Keana Meneses	Megan Shock
Michaela Michl c	Leonard Sikkink c
Hamdi Mohamed c	Wendy Stace
Katra Mohamed	Michelle Stephens
Ashley Mokamba	Zahra Susow m
Lois Mokaya m	Tamara Sweezy
Pa chai Moua	Abimbola Taiwo
Juliana Mumo	Nina Tarley
Abigail Nadeau	Azalea Tashoff
Ann Marie Narine m	Yeanee Thomas
Hermella Negash	Musulyn Thomas m
Sahara Nekow c	Katherine Tietje c
Quinta Nkonki c	Kenny Tran m
Joseph Odirih m	Kaylee Tuttle
Onyinye Okafor m	Mehdia Umer c
Tara Oliver c	Lul Umur m
Lewis Omwoyo c	Celia Vaerst
Sabira Osman	Mai Vang c
Jayne Pederson c	Elyn Villamar c
Maria Perez Chavez	Mai Vue
Isaac Peterson	Juanita Vue
Phonesavan Phaivan c	Ka Vue

Bachelor's Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Cont.)

Amanual Wolday

Kashia Yang

Khou Yang c

Hiwot Zemikael c

Makayla Zinnel

Bachelor of Science in Project Management

Chet Beireis s

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Kayla Xiong

Bachelor of Science in Technology Management

Olivia Olvera m

Nicholas Smith s

Master's Degrees

Master of Business Administration

Bobbi Jo Christensen
Haley Holmquist
Shenee Marcial

Ronnie McCrimmon
Teresa Pannkuk
Kao Thao

Master of Business Administration in Business Analytics

Kathleen Stanley

Arabella Villegas

Master of Science in Healthcare Administration

Kelsey Raulston
Elizabeth Ruiz
Salida Sak

Valeria Spivakova
Roberta Wea

Master of Science in Nursing

Ruwayda Omar

Mary Peterson

Master of Science in Nursing in Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Lauren McCue

Master of Science in Nursing in Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Tehtee Paye

Master of Science in Nursing in Family Nurse Practitioner

Jennifer Stolt

Master's Degrees

Master of Science in Nursing in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Marlyn Escobar-Zamora

Jo Harford

Shawanda Goodman

Daina Lesly Matan Gnoumba

Post Master's Certificate

Post-Masters Certificate in Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Alison Brisbin

Post-Masters Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Barbara Richey

Doctorate Degrees

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Shivani Sharma

Key to Honors

Master & Doctoral Degree

Graduates receive the Masters and Doctoral degree hood as a recognition of academic achievement.

Bachelor Degree Honors

s = Summa Cum Laude (*with greatest honor*)

A cumulative grade point average of 3.90-4.00 is recognized by a gold stole that is part of the graduate's academic regalia.

m = Magna Cum Laude (*with high honor*)

A cumulative grade point average of 3.70-3.89 is recognized by a double gold cord that is part of the graduate's academic regalia.

c = Cum Laude (*with honor*)

A cumulative grade point average of 3.50-3.69 is recognized by a double silver cord that is part of the graduate's academic regalia.

Associate Degree and Diploma Honors

h = Honors A cumulative grade point average of 3.50 to 4.00. is recognized by double white cord that is part of the graduate's academic regalia.

Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society (ABK)

† = ABK National Honor Society

Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society membership is open to undergraduate students who have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher and are recognized at commencement by wearing red, white and blue honor cords. Additional qualifications for membership include leadership and service in class and school activities, and personal integrity and good moral character. The purpose of the society is to help schools, colleges and universities however organized and named, and their students and alumni through the encouragement and recognition of superior academic work and laboratory training in honorable fields of endeavor.

Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society (PA)

‡ = PA Social Work Honor Society

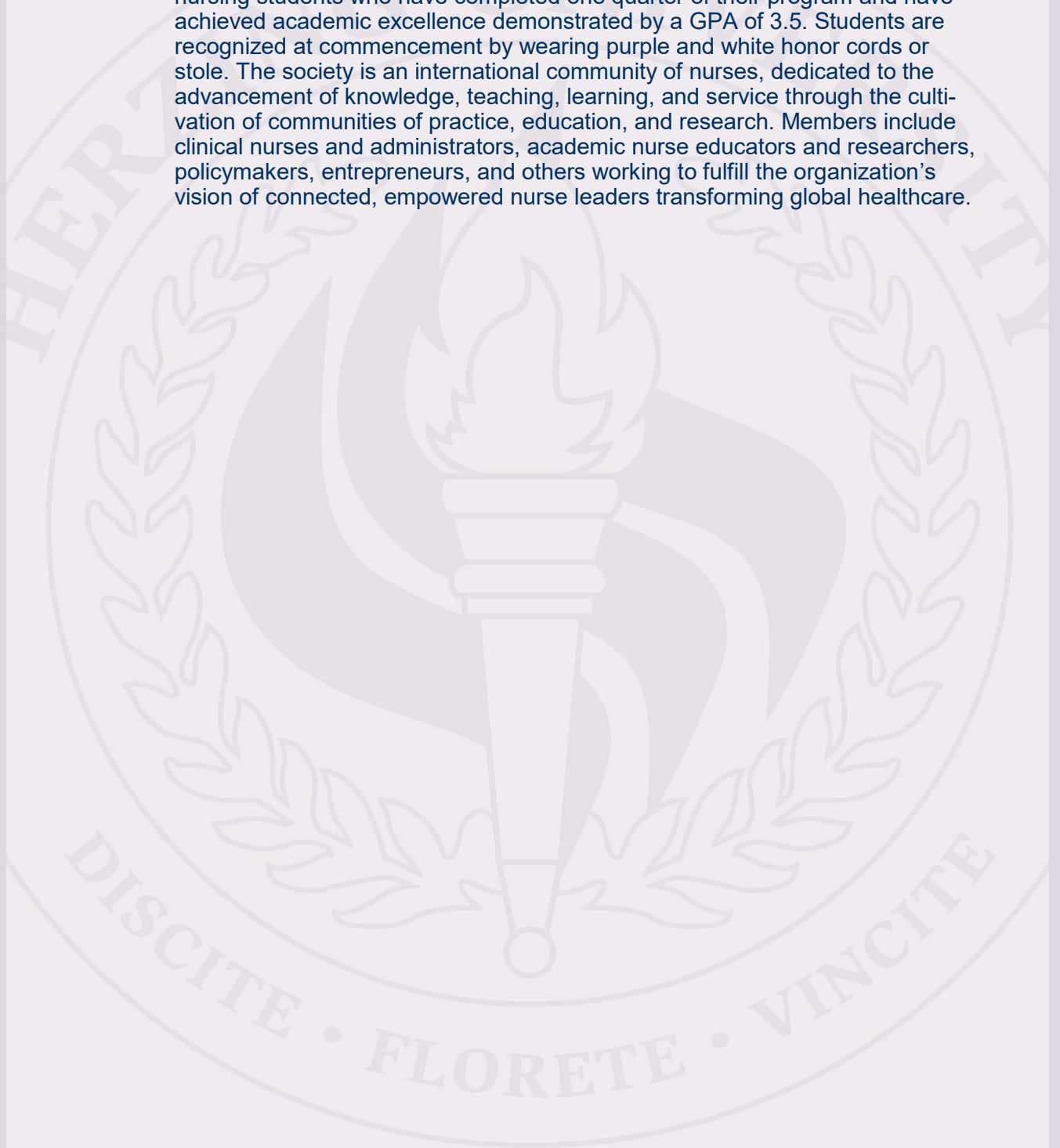
The highest honor one can receive in Social Work at Herzing University is membership in the Delta Kappa Sigma Chapter of Phi Alpha International Honor Society. Members must earn a 3.5 cumulative GPA, have completed at least one-third of the program, and have completed 10 hours of community service. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. Students are recognized at commencement by wearing a blue and gold honor cord or stole. The purpose of Phi Alpha Honor Society is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals.

Key to Honors

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (STT)

Σ = STT International Honor Society

Induction into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing is open to undergraduate nursing students who have completed one half of their nursing curriculum, achieved academic excellence demonstrated by a GPA of 3.0 and rank in the upper 35% of their class; membership is open to graduate nursing students who have completed one quarter of their program and have achieved academic excellence demonstrated by a GPA of 3.5. Students are recognized at commencement by wearing purple and white honor cords or stole. The society is an international community of nurses, dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, teaching, learning, and service through the cultivation of communities of practice, education, and research. Members include clinical nurses and administrators, academic nurse educators and researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and others working to fulfill the organization's vision of connected, empowered nurse leaders transforming global healthcare.



Alumni Pledge

I Acknowledge:

As a proud Herzing University alum, I am part of a lifelong community built on mentorship, leadership, and support. Empowered by my education, I will inspire others, foster inclusivity, and create meaningful change.

I Pledge Therefore:

To embody the P.R.I.C.E. of Success—Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Caring, and Engagement—in all aspects of my life, making a positive impact wherever I go.

Graduates, welcome to the Herzing University Alumni Circle! Keep in touch and access your no-cost alumni benefits!



careerconnect.herzing.edu

[i'm] possible



Executive Committee

Renée Herzing, M.B.A.

University President

Nigel Longworth, M.S.

Chief Information Officer

Kitty Kautzer, ED.D.

Chief Academic Officer

Erik Parks, B.S.

Chief Operations Officer

Clay Gillespie, B.S.

Chief Marketing Officer

Simha Sudarshan, M.B.A., J.D.

Chief Financial Officer

The faculty, staff, and administration of Herzing University cordially welcome graduates, their families, and their friends to this festive occasion and extend to each graduate heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the journey ahead!



Locations

**Herzing University is an Institution of Higher Learning with
Locations in the Following States**

Alabama

Herzing University, Birmingham

Florida

Herzing University, Orlando

Herzing University, Tampa

Georgia

Herzing University, Atlanta

Louisiana

Herzing University, New Orleans

Minnesota

Herzing University, Minneapolis

Ohio

Herzing University, Akron

Tennessee

Herzing University, Clarksville

Herzing University, Nashville

Wisconsin

Herzing University, Brookfield

Herzing University, Kenosha

Herzing University, Madison

Herzing University, Online

Herzing University Central Administration

275 W. Wisconsin Ave. Suite 210

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53203

www.herzing.edu

Herzing University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.
To learn more, please go to www.hlcommission.org



HERZING[®]
— UNIVERSITY —

[i'm] possible